



WEBSTER'S  
Ninth New  
Collegiate  
Dictionary



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# Ninth New Collegiate Dictionary

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variola \ver-ə-'lə, var-; va-'ri-ə-lə\ n [NL, fr. ML, pustule, pox, fr. LL, pustule] (ca. 1771) : any of several virus diseases (as smallpox or cowpox) marked by a pustular eruption

variometer \ver-ə-'äm-ət-ər, var-\ n (ca. 1900) 1 : an instrument for measuring magnetic declination 2 : VARIOCOUPLER 3 : an aeronautical instrument for indicating rate of climb

vari-o-rum \ver-ə-'ör-əm, var-, -'ör-\ n [L, *variorum* of various persons (gen. pl. masc. of *varius*), in the phrase *cum notis variorum* with the notes of various persons] (1728) 1 : an edition or text with notes by different persons 2 : an edition containing variant readings of the text

variorum *adj* (1763) : relating to or being a variorum; also : VARIANT (readings)

various \ver-ə-'əs, 'var-\ adj [L, *varius*; prob. akin to L *varus* bent, crooked] (1552) 1 *archaic* : VARIABLE, INCONSTANT 2 : VARICOLORED (birds of ~ plumage) 3 : of differing kinds: MULTIFARIOUS b : dissimilar in nature or form: UNLIKE (animals as ~ as the jaguar and the sloth) 4 : having a number of different aspects or characteristics (a ~ place) (a ~ talent) 5 : of an indefinite number greater than one (stop at ~ towns) 6 : INDIVIDUAL, SEPARATE (rate increases granted in the ~ states) *syn* see DIFFERENT — *various-ness* n

variously *adv* (1627) 1 : in various ways: at various times (was ~ occupied teaching, farming, and clerking) 2 : by various designations (known as principal, headmaster, and rector)

varized \ver-i-sizd, 'var-\ adj (1941) : of various sizes

var-is-tor \va-'ris-tər, ve-\ n [vari- + resistor] (1943) : an electrical resistor whose resistance depends on the applied voltage

varix \var'iks\ n, pl var-i-ces \var'-sēz\ [L, *varix*, varix — more at VARICOSE] (15c) 1 : an abnormally dilated and lengthened vein, artery, or lymph vessel; esp: a varicose vein 2 : one of the prominent ridges across each whorl of a gastropod shell

varlet \var'-lət\ n [ME, fr. MF *vaslet*, varlet young nobleman; page — more at VALET] (15c) 1 a : ATTENDANT, MENIAL b : a knight's page 2 : a base unprincipled person: KNAVE

varlet-y \lō-tré\, n, archaic (1606) : RABBLE

vermint \vär'-mant\ n [alter of *vermin*] (1539) 1 : an animal or bird considered a pest; *specif*: an animal classed as vermin and unprotected by game law 2 : a contemptible person: RASCAL; broadly: PERSON, FELLOW

varnish \vär-nish\ n [ME *vernisch*, fr. MF *vernis*, Olt or ML: Olt *vernice*, fr. ML *veronica*, *veronix* sandarac (resin)] (14c) 1 a : a liquid preparation that when spread and allowed to dry on a surface forms a hard lustrous typically transparent coating 2 : the covering or glaze given by the application of varnish c (1) : something that suggests varnish by its gloss (2) : a coating (as of deposits in an internal-combustion engine) comparable to varnish 2 : outside show: GLOSS 3 *chiefly Brit*: a liquid nail polish — *varnish* \vär'-nish\ adj

varnish v (14c) 1 : to apply varnish to 2 : to cover or conceal (as something unpleasant) with something that gives a fair appearance

GLOSS 3 : ADORN, EMBELLISH — *var-nisher* \vär'-nər\ n

varnish tree n (1758) : any of various trees yielding a milky juice from which in some cases varnish or lacquer is prepared; esp: a Japanese sumac (*Rhus verniciflua*)

varsity \vär-söt-ē, -ste\ n, pl -ties [by shortening & alter. fr. *university*] (1646) *Brit*: UNIVERSITY 2 a : the principal squad representing a university, college, school, or club esp. in a sport b : *REGULAR* 1d

Varuna \var'-u-nə\ n [Skrt *Varuṇa*] : a chief Vedic god responsible for natural and moral order in the cosmos

varus \var'-əs, 'ver-\ n [NL, fr. L, bent, knock-kneed — more at VARICOSE] (1800) : a deformed position of a bodily part characterized by bending or turning inward toward the midline of the body to an abnormal degree (as moderate right metatarsus ~ — *Jour. Amer. Med. Assoc.*)

varus *adj* *varv* \värv\ n [Sw *varv* turn, layer; akin to OE *hwærforan* to turn — more at WHARF] (ca. 1922) : a pair of layers of alternately finer and coarser silt or clay believed to comprise an annual cycle of deposition in a body of still water — *varved* \värvd\ adj

vary \vär'-ē, 'vār-\ vb varied; varying [ME *varien*, fr. MF or L: MF *varier*, fr. L *variare*, fr. *varius* various] vt (14c) 1 a : to make a partial change in: make different in some attribute or characteristic b : to make differences between items in: DIVERSIFY 2 : to present under new aspects (as the rhythm and harmonic treatment) ~ vi 1 : to exhibit or undergo change (the sky was constantly ~ing) 2 : DEVIATE, DEPART 3 : to take on successive values (y varies inversely with x) 4 : to exhibit divergence in structural or physiological characters from the typical form *syn* see CHANGE — *varyingly* \vär'-i-lē\ adv

varying hare n (1781) : any of several hares having white fur in winter; esp: SNOWSHOE RABBIT

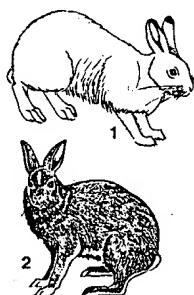
vas \vās\ n, pl va-sa \vā-za\ [NL, fr. L, vessel] (1651) : an anatomical vessel: DUCT

vas- or vaso comb form [NL, fr. L *vas*] 1 : vessel: as a : blood vessel (vasomotor) b : vas deferens (vasectomy) 2 : vascular and (vasovagal) 3 : vasomotor (vasoinhibitor)

vas-ef-fer-en-tia \vā-za-,ef-ə-'ren-ch(ē)-ə\ n pl [NL, lit. efferent vessels] (ca. 1860) : the 12 to 20 tubes that lead from the rete of the testis to the vas deferens and except near their commencement are greatly convoluted and form the compact head of the epididymis

vas-ular \vās-kō-lər\ adj [NL *vasularis*, fr. L *vasculum* small vessel, dim. of *vas*] (1672) 1 : of or relating to a channel for the conveyance of a body fluid (as blood of an animal or sap of a plant) or to a system of such channels; also : supplied with or

made up of such channels and esp. blood vessels (a ~ tumor) (a ~ system) 2 : marked by vigor and ardor: SPIRITED, PASSIONATE — *vas-ular-ity* \vās-kō-lar-ət-ē\ n



varying hare: 1 winter coat; 2 summer coat

vascular bundle n (ca. 1884) : a unit of the vascular system of a higher plant consisting usu. of vessels and sieve tubes together with parenchyma cells and fibers

vascular cylinder n (ca. 1889) : STELE

vas-cu-lar-i-za-tion \vās-kyō-lə-rā-'zā-shən\ n (1818) : the process of becoming vascular; also : abnormal or excessive formation of blood vessels (as in the retina or on the cornea)

vascular plant n (1861) : a plant having a specialized conducting system that includes xylem and phloem: TRACHEOPHYTE

vascular ray n (1672) : a band of usu. parenchymatous cells partly in the xylem and partly in the phloem of a plant root or stem that conducts fluids radially and appears in a cross section like a spoke of a wheel

vascular tissue n (1815) : plant tissue concerned mainly with conduction; esp: the specialized tissue of higher plants consisting essentially of phloem and xylem and forming a continuous system throughout the body

vas-cu-la-ture \vās-kyō-lə-chū(z)r, -t(y)ū(z)r\ n [L *vasculum* vessel + E -ature (as in *musculature*)] (ca. 1927) : the disposition or arrangement of blood vessels in an organ or part

vas-cu-litis \vās-kyō-līt-əs\ n, pl -li-ti-des \līt-ə, dēz\ [NL, fr. L *vasculum* vessel] (ca. 1903) : inflammation of a blood or lymph vessel

vas-cu-lum \vās-kyō-ləm\ n, pl -la \vā-łə\ [NL, fr. L, small vessel] (1844) : a usu. metal and commonly cylindrical or flattened covered box used in collecting plants

vas-def-erens \vās-def-ə-rəns, -renz\ n, pl va-sa def-er-en-tia \vā-za-,def-ə-'ren-ch(ē)-ə\ [NL, lit. deferent vessel] (ca. 1885) : a spermatic duct esp. of a higher vertebrate forming in man a small thick-walled tube about two feet long greatly convoluted in its proximal portion

vase \vās\ oftenest 'vāz; Canad usu & US also 'vāz; Brit usu, Canad also, & US sometimes 'vāz\ [F, fr. L *vase* wasp; akin to Umbrian *vasor*] (1563) : usu. round vessel of greater depth than width used chiefly as an ornament or for holding flowers — *vase-like* \līk\ adj

va-sec-to-mize \vā-sek-tə-miz, vā'-zék-\ vt -mized; -miz-ing (1900) : to perform a vasectomy on

va-sec-to-my \vā-sek-mē\ n, pl -mies [ISV] (1899) : surgical division or resection of all or part of the vas deferens usu. to induce permanent sterility

Vase-line \vās-ə-lēn, vās-ə-\ trademark — used for petrolatum

va-so-ac-tive \vā-zō-äk-tiv\ adj (ca. 1921) : affecting the blood vessels esp. in respect to the degree of their relaxation or contraction — *va-so-activity* \vā-ak-tiv-ətē\ n

va-so-con-stric-tion \vān-kōn-trik-shən\ n [ISV] (1899) : narrowing of the lumen of blood vessels esp. as a result of vasomotor action

va-so-con-stric-tive \vān-kōn-trik-tiv\ adj (1890) : inducing vasoconstriction

va-so-con-stric-tor \vān-kōn-trōr\ n (1877) : an agent (as a sympathetic nerve fiber or a drug) that induces or initiates vasoconstriction

va-so-di-lat-ation \vā-dil-ə-tā-shən, -di-lā-shən\ n [ISV] (1896) : widening of the lumen of blood vessels

va-so-di-la-tor \vād-lā-tōr\ n (1881) : an agent (as a parasympathetic nerve fiber or a drug) that induces or initiates vasodilation

va-so-mo-to \vāzō-mōt-ər\ adj [ISV] (1865) : of, relating to, or being nerves or centers controlling the size of blood vessels

va-so-pre-sin \vāzō-'pres-in\ n [fr. *Vasopressin*, a trademark] (1927) : a polypeptide hormone secreted by the posterior lobe of the pituitary gland that increases blood pressure and decreases urine flow — called also *antidiuretic hormone*

va-so-pre-sor \vās-pres-ər\ adj (1928) : causing a rise in blood pressure by exerting a vasoconstrictor effect — *vasopressor* n

va-so-spasm \vāzō-'spaz-əm\ n [ISV] (ca. 1909) : sharp and often persistent contraction of a blood vessel reducing its caliber and blood flow — *va-so-spastic* \vāzō-'spas-tik\ adj

va-so-to-cin \vāzō-tōs-in\ n [vaso- + oxytocin] (ca. 1963) : a polypeptide pituitary hormone of most lower vertebrates that is held to have an antidiuretic function

va-so-va-gal \vāzō-'vā-gəl\ adj (ca. 1923) : of, relating to, or involving both vascular and vaginal factors

vas-sal \vās-əl\ n [ME, fr. MF, fr. ML *vassalus*, fr. *vassus* servant, vasal, of Celt origin; akin to W *gwas* boy, servant] (14c) 1 : a person under the protection of a feudal lord to whom he has vowed homage and fealty: feudal tenant 2 : one in a subservient or subordinate position — *vassal* adj

vas-sal-age \vās-lāj\ n (1594) 1 : the state of being a vassal 2 : the homage, fealty, or services due from a vassal 3 : a position of subordination or submission (as to a political power)

vast \vāst\ adj [L *vastus*: akin to OIr *for length*] (1575) : very great in size, amount, degree, intensity, or esp. in extent or range *syn* see ENORMOUS — *vastly* adv — *vastness* \vās(t)-nəs\ n

vast n (1604) : a boundless space (the ~ of heaven —John Milton)

vast-i-tude \vās-tə-tüd, -tūd\ n [L *vastitudo*, fr. *vastus*] (1623) : IMMENSITY, VASTNESS

vasty \vās-tēv\ adj (1596) : VAST (call spirits from the ~ deep —Shak.)

vat \vāt\ n [ME *fat*, *vat*, fr. OE *feat*; akin to OHG *vaz* vessel, Lith *puodas* pot] (bef. 12c) 1 : a large vessel (as a cistern, tub, or barrel) esp. for holding liquors in an immature state or preparations for dyeing or tanning 2 : liquor containing a dye converted into a soluble reduced colorless or weakly colored form that on textile material steeped in the liquor and exposed to the air is converted by oxidation to the original insoluble dye and precipitated in the fiber

vat vt vat-ted; vat-ting (1784) : to put into or treat in a vat

vat dye n (ca. 1903) : a water-insoluble generally fast dye used in the form of a vat liquor — called also *vat color*

vat-dyed \vāt-'dīd\ adj (ca. 1947) : dyed with one or more vat dyes

vat-ic \vāt-ik\ adj [L *vates* seer, prophet; akin to OE *wōth* poetry, OHG *wuot* madness, OIr *feith* seer, poet] (1603) : PROPHETIC, ORACULAR

\ə\ about \vā\ kitten, F table \vār\ further \vā\ ash \vā\ acc \vā\ cot, cart \vā\ out \vā\ chin \vā\ bet \vā\ easy \vā\ go \vā\ hit \vā\ ice \vā\ job \vā\ sing \vā\ go \vā\ law \vā\ boy \vā\ thin \vā\ the \vā\ loot \vā\ foot \vā\ yet \vā\ vision \vā\ k, \vā\ c, \vā\ e, \vā\ i, \vā\ see Guide to Pronunciation